HANDS OFF!
TOKYOPOP
PERFECT PUR
7
KASANE KATSUMOTO

Volume 7

by

Kasane Katsumoto

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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ISBN 1-59532-159-4

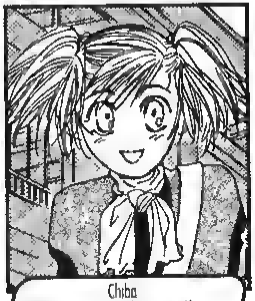
First TOKYOPOP printing: September 2006
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in the USA

CHARACTERS & STORY

Karen
A wannabe photographer with a fascination for Tatsuki and Kotarou

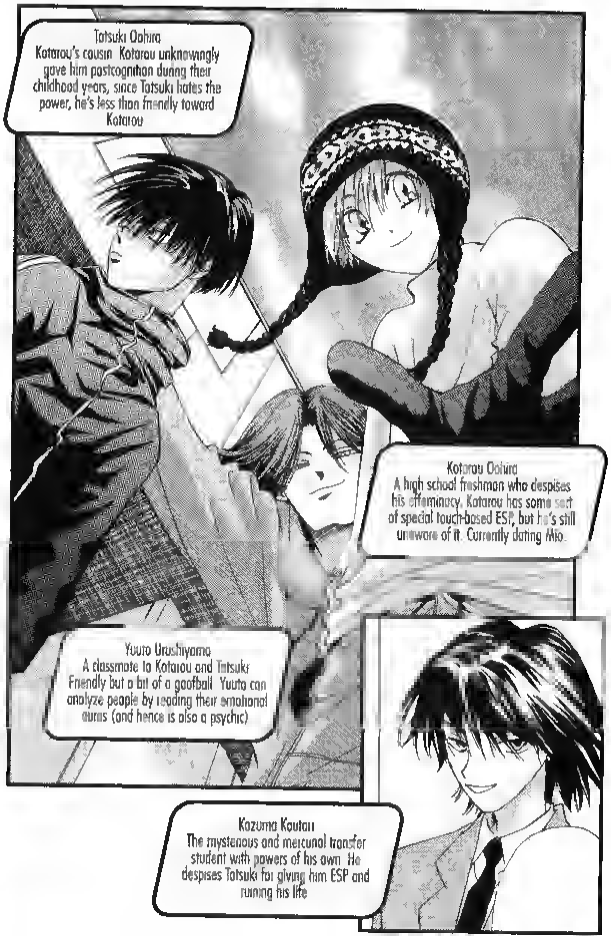
Mia Yoshino
Kotarou's hottie girlfriend, a second-year at Tachibana High

Akira
A weird kid who lives in Kotarou's neighborhood



Chiba
Mia's loyal underclassman. She's not a fan of Kotarou and Mia dating

Things couldn't be much worse for Kotarou and Tatsuki. Kazuma finally put his revenge plan into action-something he'd been planning since the ESP that Tatsuki apparently gave him brought about the tragic death of his older sister. He slashed the brake hose on Tatsuki's motorcycle, sending Tatsuki and his grandfather-who'd been riding with him that day-into a nasty accident that claimed the life of Grampa. Kotarou's ensuing grief and blame caused Tatsuki to have an emotional breakdown, which coincided with Kazuma's own guilty downward spiral after killing the wrong man. Although Kotarou has slowly begun to cope with the loss of his grandfather through the help of Yuuta and Akira, Tatsuki and Kazuma have stopped showing up to school, and Tatsuki's anger has apparently turned his powers into a destructive physical force. Karen begins to realize that a furious Tatsuki with a newer, stronger ability and no outlet for his pain is a disaster waiting to happen.


Tatsuki Oshiro
Kotarou's cousin. Kotarou unknowingly gave him postcognition during their childhood years, since Tatsuki hates the power, he's less than friendly toward Kotarou
Kotarou Oshiro
A high school freshman who despises his effeminacy. Kotarou has some sort of special touch-based ESP, but he's still unaware of it. Currently dating Mia.
Yuuta Urashiyama
A classmate to Kotarou and Tatsuki. Friendly but a bit of a goofball. Yuuta can analyze people by reading their emotional auras (and hence is also a psychic)
Kazuma Kouta
The mysterious and mercurial transfer student with powers of his own. He despises Tatsuki for giving him ESP and ruining his life

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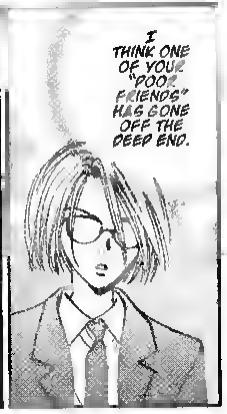
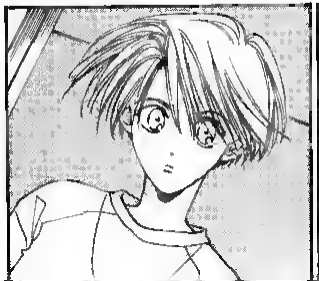
ACT 23

THE PROBLEM IS...
YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY.
...TATABOY, KOTAROU. IT'S HARD, BUT YOU CAN KEEP YOURSELF TOGETHER.

THAT GUY IS SUCH A TRIAL.
What do I do now?
...I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR TATSUKI.


I THINK ONE OF YOUR "POOR FRIENDS" HAS GONE OFF THE DEEP END.



HUH?
SOMEONE'S ALREADY HERE
squeak
squeak

DING DONG

HE LOOKS GOOD AS NEW.
I BET THAT MAKES YOUR DAY.
IT DOES.

YOU LOOKED PSYCHED.
G-BALL GAME, KID?
HELL YEAH!
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE MATCH AGAINST THE ALUMS.

IS HE ONE OF THE ALUMS?
WHO IS THAT?!
THAT DUNK WAS HOT AS HELL!
WOW!

LONG TIME NO SEE
HEY, YOU.

OH, MAN!

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
I'M SPYING BEFORE THE GAME
JEEZ.
UDOU!
MR. UDOU, YOU'RE BACK!
HEY, IT'S MR. UDOU!
RIGHT, SORRY
FOR REAL?!

WHAT?!
IS IT ISN'T UESUGI-YAMA.
SOMETHING THE MATTER?

UDOU-SENSEI!
HOW ARE THINGS?

I'M NOT YOUR STUDENT TEACHER ANYMORE
I ALREADY AM. AND YOU CAN DROP THE "SENSEI."
HOW COME YOU'RE HERE?
YOU SHOULD TOTALLY PLAY IN THE ALUMNI GAME, SENSEI!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BACK IN JAPAN!

HE WAS HIDING ANOTHER AURA UNDER THERE
BLUE-PURPLE...
GOD, HE'S STILL REALLY DOWN ABOUT HIS GRANDPA

YUUTO!
YOU BETTER NOT HAVE SHOWN UP TO EMBARRASS ME

KOTAROU
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT GAME WE'RE PRACTICING FOR, OKAY?
SO BE GOOD OR SCRAM

HUH?
PASS
AND LEGGO

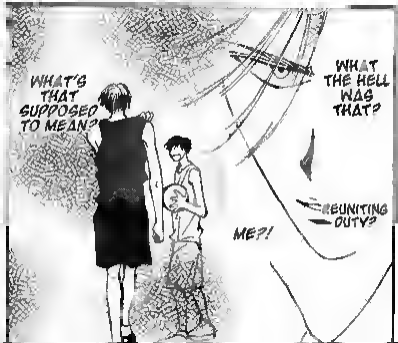
I'VE ALREADY GOT PLANS FOR KARAOKE WITH MIO.

HE'S JUST PRETENDING TO BE OVER IT.
HEY.
YOU WANNA GO OUT ON THE TOWN OR SOMETHING AFTER PRACTICE?
I CAN WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE DONE.

squeeze
HANG IN THERE, CHAMP

UNREQUITED LOVE?
Ha ha!
COME ON-- YOU CAN TELL OLD UDOU
WELL HE STILL SUCKS.

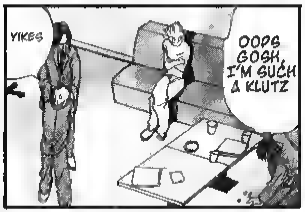
DON'T FORGET THAT YOU'RE ON REUNITING DUTY.


WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
REUNITING DUTY?
ME?!

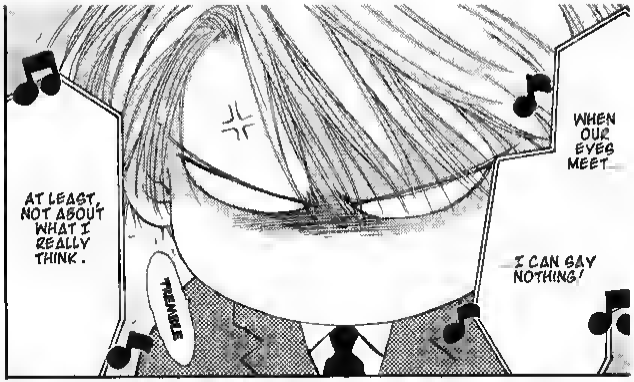
WHA?
OKAY
YOU BOYS READY TO START?

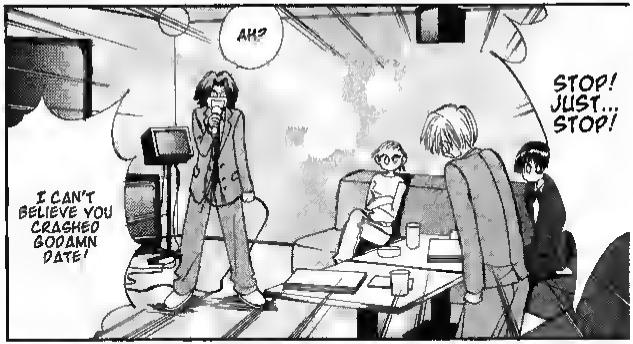
ENOUGH ALREADY!
YOU HEARD HER--THE MORE THE MERRIER AND LOOK!
EVEN KAREN CAME TO SHOW THE LOVE

JUST LEAVE IT, MIO
MIO! ARE YOU OKAY?
I'LL TELL THE STAFF
I'M OKAY
LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE NICK


YIKES
OOPS GOSH, I'M SUCH A KLUTZ

OW!


AT LEAST, NOT ABOUT WHAT I REALLY THINK.
TREMBLE
WHEN OUR EYES MEET
I CAN SAY NOTHING!


AH?
STOP! JUST... STOP!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CRASHED GODAMN DATE!

I THOUGHT MAYBE MORE OF A PARTY WOULD CHEER YOU UP, AND SINCE YUUTO WAS INTERESTED I DON'T KNOW, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN
I'M THE ONE WHO SAID HE COULD COME.
DON'T BE MAD, KOTAROU

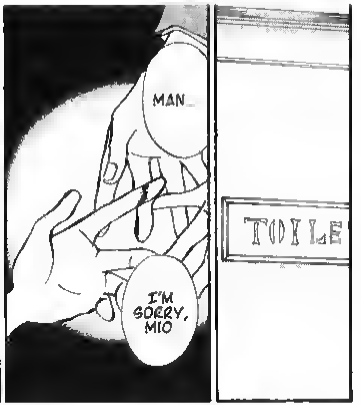
AND I KNOW HE'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT TATSUKI
WHEN I WAS SKIPPING ALL THAT SCHOOL AFTER GRAMPA DIED, YUUTO CAME TO MY PLACE EVERY DAY
SHE'S RIGHT, I GUESS

DAMMIT. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TATSUKI'S BEEN DOING THIS WHOLE TIME.
WAS LEAVING HIM ALONE REALLY A GOOD IDEA?
..HE'S BARELY AT HOME ANYMORE.
EVEN THOUGH MY PARENTS TOLD ME TO GIVE HIM SOME SPACE...

N-NO WAY
BUT HOW COULD

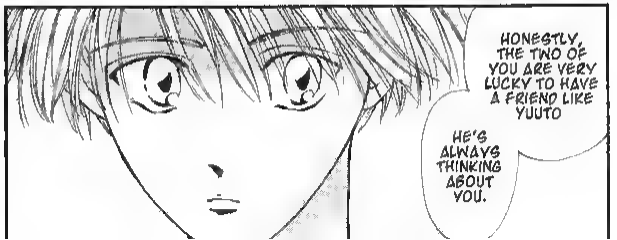
HUH?

WHAT? DON'T BE SILLY
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AND I HAVE A BAND-AID, SEE?


MAN...
I'M SORRY, MIO
TOILE

WELL, ABOUT TATSUKI
YUUTO'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND ABOUT...
Hello

UM KOTAROU?
YEAH?


HONESTLY, THE TWO OF YOU ARE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE A FRIEND LIKE YUUTO
HE'S ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU.

SO?
WHAT'S THE PLAN, YOU?
TATSUKI OOHIRA'S STILL ON THE LOOSE

REUNITING OUTY
YEAH, RIGHT
KNOWING WHERE TATSUKI IS WOULD BE A NICE START, UDOU
NO CLUE
YOU GOTTA HELP ME, KAREN, DARLING!
Grr

WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO
crea
SORRY FOR THE WAIT
YOU OKAY?

I ALMOST THOUGHT...
...THAT KOTAROU HEALED ME?

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY CUT?!

ER I'M FINE
SO SMALL THAT IT'S ALREADY HEALED.
MAYBE THE CUT WAS JUST SMALL

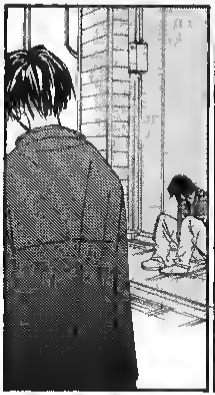
THAT... MAKES SENSE, DOESN'T IT?
I... I HAD A VERY SILLY IDEA FOR A MOMENT THERE

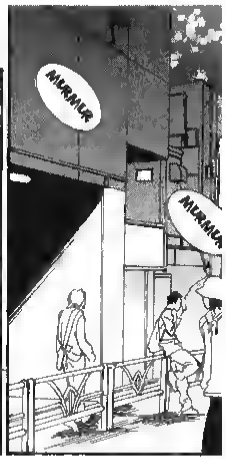
EVERYTHING OKAY?
I CAN HELP YOU PUT IT ON, IF YOU WANT.

I... DID HAVE ONE, DIDN'T I?
NO, I'M SURE I DID!
THERE'S STILL BLOOD ON THE TISSUE I WAS USING!

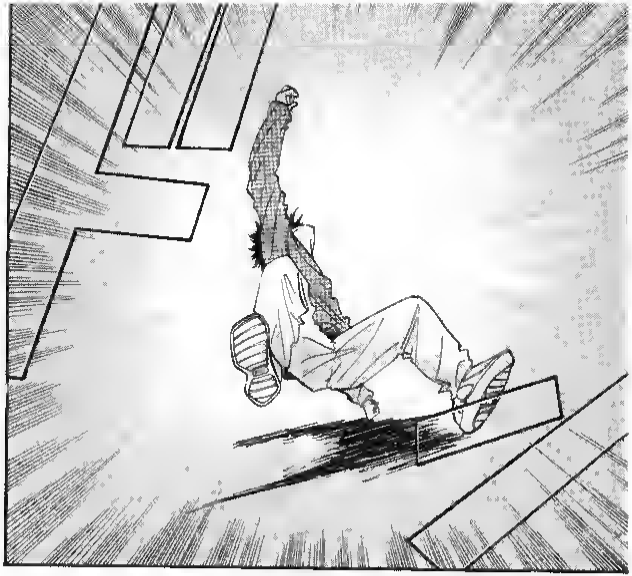
KOUTAZI...?

YOU SON OF A BITCH!




MURMUR
MURMUR

IT'S YOUR FAULT. YOURS.
HGCK.
ダーン
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE--
Gack!
Hggh!



WHAT'S THE MATTER, KAREN?!
MAYBE
DID YOU HEAR THAT? WHAT WAS THAT?
SOUNDED LIKE AN ACCIDENT
!
...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

IS THAT...
...ME?!

TATSUKI!

HE WAS FIGHTING AGAIN!
click
click
WHO'S THE KID ON THE GROUND?
HUH?!
KOTAROU IS
IS THAT YOU, KAZUMA?!
HACH!
NNGH
WHAT THE HELL?
hnnh
WHY WAS TATSUKI TRYING TO STRANGLE KOUTARI?!
TATSUKI!
MIO, DO ME A FAVOR?
STAY WITH KAZUMA A MINUTE
HUH?
UM...
WAIT A SEC.

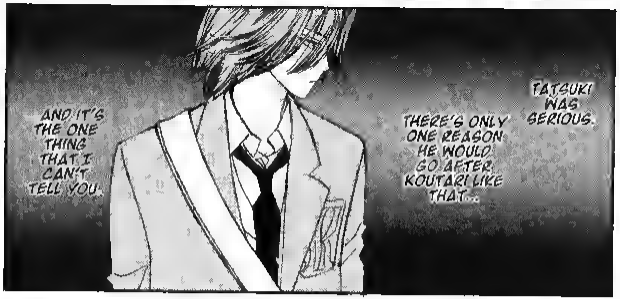
KOUTARI?!
WHAT?
...AM I...
KOTAROU.

KOTAROU!

TATSUKI
GET AWAY FROM ME
TATSUKI!
GET AWAY FROM ME
NO!
HAVE YOU LOST IT? DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU WERE DOING?!

GET AWAY!

I'M SORRY, KID.
YEAH, MAYBE
THEY'VE NEVER GOTTEN ALONG-- TATSUKI PROBABLY JUST BOILED OVER DURING AN ARGUMENT.
OF COURSE NOT
YOU KNOW THOSE TWO

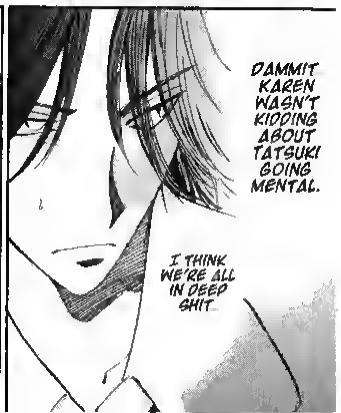

AND IT'S THE ONE THING THAT I CAN'T TELL YOU.
THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON HE WOULD GO AFTER KOUTARI LIKE THAT...
TATSUKI WAS SERIOUS.

NN!
HOW DID HE DO THAT?!

H-HIS BODY WAS IN THE AIR
TATSUKI'S POWERS CAN'T REALLY DO THAT?
UGH

OW
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
IT FELT LIKE SOMEONE THREW SOMETHING AT ME

HEY
IT WASN'T JUST ME, RIGHT? YOU SAW TATSUKI CHOKING KAZUMA.
HE WASN'T... REALLY TRYING TO HURT HIM, WAS HE?


DAMMIT KAREN WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT TATSUKI GOING MENTAL.
I THINK WE'RE ALL IN DEEP SHIT.

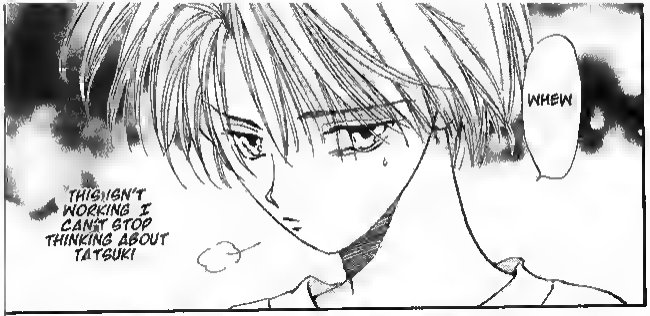
WHOA!
WHAT THE HECK?
LOOK OUT!
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE.
I DIDN'T WANT TO FIND ME.

I THOUGHT THE ACCIDENT KNOCKED ALL THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM.
IT'S LIKE THE OPPOSITE HAPPENED
EXCUSE ME
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DID YOU AND TATSUKI HAVE A FIGHT?
DID HE ACTUALLY GET MORE POWERFUL?
IS HE GONNA KILL ME?
I DOUBT IT
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS ONE
AND THAT SMILE OF HIS GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
YEAH
JUST A FIGHT.

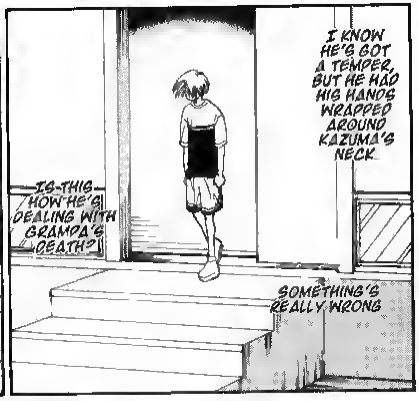
NO MORE!

I'VE WAITED TOO LONG FOR THIS NIGHTMARE TO END
FOR THE DAY THIS CURSE WOULD FINALLY DISAPPEAR
I WAITED AND I WAITED...
I DIDN'T WANT IT.
I HELD MY BREATH.
I CLOSED MY EYES AND FELT IT EAT AWAY AT ME.

NO MORE.


WHEW
THIS ISN'T WORKING I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT TATSUKI

IT'S NOT LIKE HE MEANT TO HAVE THE ACCIDENT
MAYBE MAYBE I WAS TOO HARD ON HIM
BUT THEN


I KNOW HE'S GOT A TEMPER, BUT HE HAD HIS HANDS WRAPPED AROUND KAZUMA'S NECK
IS THIS HOW HE'S DEALING WITH GRANDA'S DEATH?
SOMETHING'S REALLY WRONG

スッ

I'M SORRY
AND YOU OCHIRA
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TODAY?
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU
YOU'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE
YOU'RE HURTING MINAMI'S GAME!

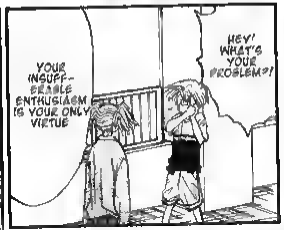
ALL RIGHT, TAKE A BREATHER!
squeak
squeak

.....

I'M TAKING YOU OUT FOR NOW
ABE YOU'RE IN
COMING!

AH, YOUR PAIN BRINGS ME PLEASURE
CHIGA.
YOU'RE NOT...
TRYING TO CHEER ME UP, ARE YOU?

MIO-SENPAI WANTS NOTHING MORE THAN TO ENJOY THAT ALUMNI GAME TOMORROW.
IF YOU APPEAR BEFORE HER IN SUCH A MOOD, SHE'LL FINALLY REALIZE YOU'RE NOT WORTH HER TIME


HEY! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!
YOUR INSUFFERABLE ENTHUSIASM IS YOUR ONLY VIRTUE

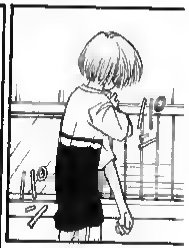
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, BUT SURPRISE US ALL AND BE A MAN

I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU THERE, YOU FORGETTABLE LITTLE SPECK
WHAT HAVE WE HERE? OH, HOW UNFORTUNATE!
HT HT HT

MREF.
JAH!

.....
SORRY

I KNOW YOU ABANDONED MIO-SENPAI AT THAT KARAOKE PARLOR YESTERDAY
YOU! WAIT!
HAVE YOU NO EXCUSE?!



!?

I REALLY WISH YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE I COULD TALK TO ABOUT THIS.
JUST COME HERE FOR A SECOND.
I'M GETTING TO THAT.

GREAT
AND I STILL CAN'T SEE YOUR AURA, THANKYOUVERYMUCH.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO
HE'S AVOIDING KOTAROU AND ME.

YOU KNOW ABOUT TATSUKI'S. ISSUES, RIGHT?
HE'S BEEN PRETTY BAD LATELY
AND HE'S GETTING A NEW POWER THAT'S NOTHING LIKE HIS OLD ONE.

LOOK.
WHY ISN'T HE SAYING ANYTHING?
COULD YOU JUST TALK TO HIM OR SOMETHING?

I'M SURE
GOOD. NOW GET IN THERE!

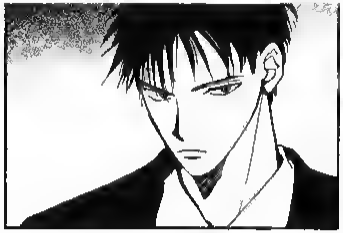
I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE GAME.
BUT SHE'S RIGHT.
SENPAI
IF YOU'RE READY.
MAY I COME BACK IN, PLEASE?
YOU SURE YOUR HEAD'S IN IT THIS TIME?

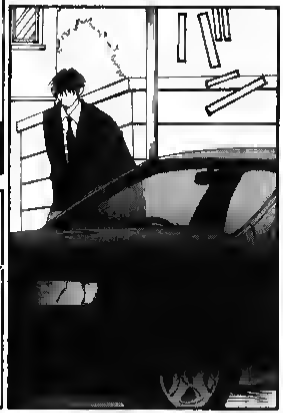
I'LL LISTEN TO YOU--JUST SAY WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT TO SAY.

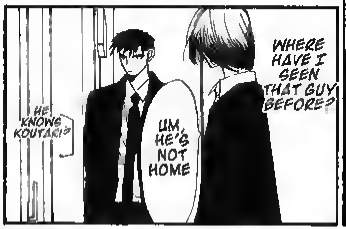
UKUSHI-YAMA
I KNOW YOU THINK YOU'RE CLEVER, BUT REALLY.

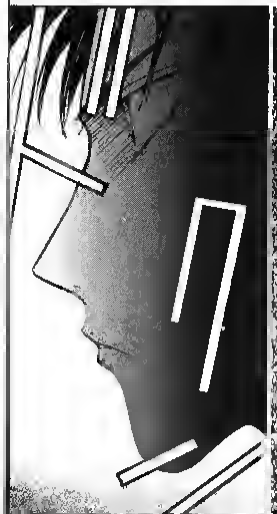
UZUCHI-YAMA.
YOU'RE SUCH A DAMN HYPOCRITE!
JUST FORGET IT, ALL RIGHT?
I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM
BUT IT'S NOT MY CALL
THIS IS SOMETHING YOU BOYS HAVE TO DO FOR YOURSELVES
"WE"? WHO ELSE IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
THERE'S REALLY A LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN HELP YOU WITH
ARGH, THIS IS GETTING ME NOWHERE!

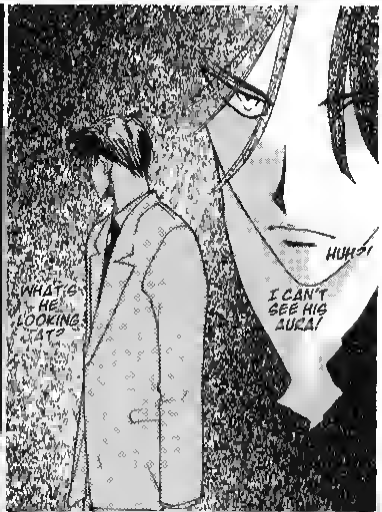
?!
WHAT?
WHY NOT?!
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HIM RIGHT NOW
I'M YOUR ALLY REALLY
I THINK SOMETHING IN HIM SNAPPED, UDOU!
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN ASK AROUND ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH A BROKEN PSYCHIC.
YOU'RE ALWAYS ACTING LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING. SO COME ON!
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
FINE

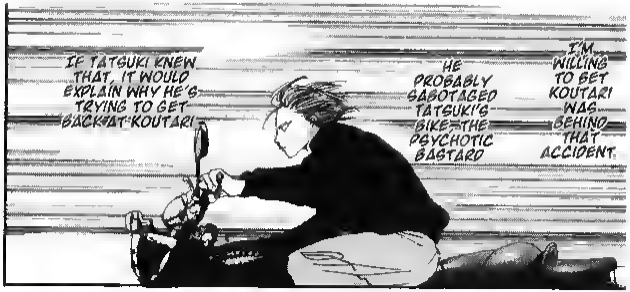





HE KNOWS KOUTARI?
UM, HE'S NOT HOME
WHERE HAVE I SEEN THAT GUY BEFORE?

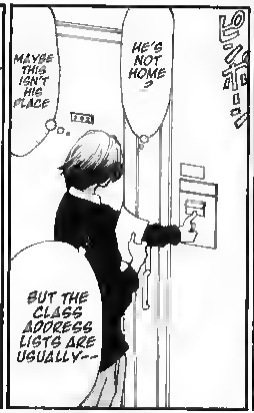


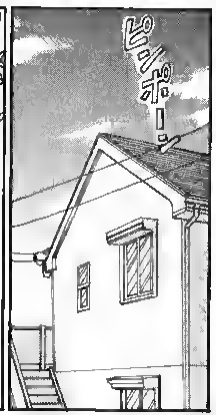

WHAT IS HE LOOKING AT?
I CAN'T SEE HIS AURA!
HUH?!


IF TATSUKI KNEW THAT, IT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY HE'S TRYING TO GET BACK AT KOUTARI
HE PROBABLY SABOTAGED TATSUKI'S BIKE--THE PSYCHOTIC BASTARD
I'M WILLING TO BET KOUTARI WAS BEHIND THAT ACCIDENT.

THE ONLY WAY I CAN THINK OF IS BY GETTING KOUTARI TO CONFESS AND THEN CALLING THE COPS
I'VE GOTTA STOP THIS.

SCREECH


MAYBE THIS ISN'T HIS PLACE
HE'S NOT HOME?
BUT THE CLASS ADDRESS LISTS ARE USUALLY--



THE
I'M SURE HE SAW SOMETHING
HEY!
HELLO?
BUT... OFFICER!
VERY CLEAR, SIR
RIGHT SORRY, SIR
LET IT BE KOUTARI, LET IT BE KOUTARI!
?
!!
WAIT!
DD
I REMEMBER YOU NOW
YOU'RE A COP, RIGHT?
スタスタ
THIS IS ALSO FAMILIAR
I KNOW THAT STARE-AND-STALK TECHNIQUE!
IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN TATSUKI USES HIS POWER TO FIND SOMETHING!

I CUT THE BRAKE HOSE.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO TATSUKI'S MOTOR-CYCLE?
GO AHEAD AND PLAY INNOCENT.
YOUR AURA'S GONNA GIVE YOU AWAY.
!!
JUST A LITTLE CUT, WITH A LITTLE BLADE.
KOTAROU
ANYTHING ELSE?

THAT WORKS TOO.
ASK ME WHAT?
THAT'S ONE BLACK, CLOUDY AURA.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
CAN I HELP YOU?
HI
I WANNA ASK YOU SOMETHING

GET UP!
I'M TURNING YOU IN TO THE COPS!
RIGHT, RIGHT
TURN ME IN
KNOCK YOURSELF OUT
YOU GODDAMN PSYCHOPATH!
YOU CAN EVEN BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF ME AND LEAVE ME TO DIE

HE'S MINE
I'M GONNA WATCH TATSUKI OOHIRA DIE.
AND NOT YOU OR ANYONE IS GONNA STOP ME THIS TIME!
H-HIS AURA'S GONE RED.
THAT PSYCHO'S NOT KIDDING!

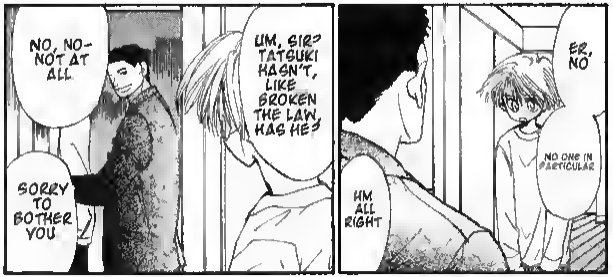
SON OF A--
JUST DO IT AFTER I KILL TATSUKI.
!
!!
I'M ALREADY A MURDERER, RIGHT? FOR KILLING THE OLD MAN.
I'M BEYOND SAVING. KILLING AGAIN MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.
I RUINED MY CHANCES OF SEEING MY SISTER AGAIN.
HICCK
GGHH

IS TATSUKI THERE? I MEAN, DID HE COME HOME YET OR ANYTHING?
UH, NOTHING JUST CHECKING
NO
WHY?
RRR...
HELLO, OOHIRA RES--
OH HEY, YUUTO

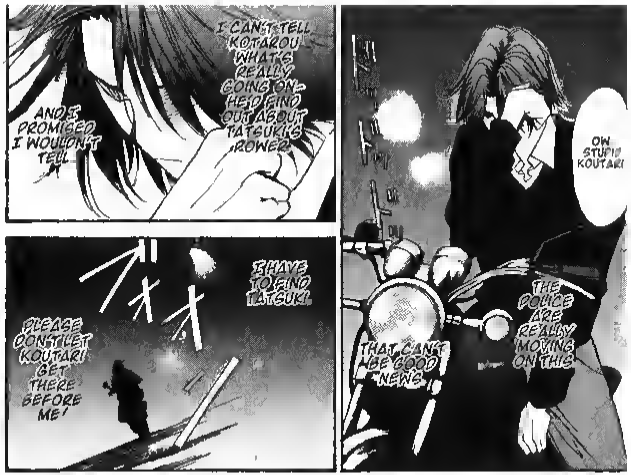
BEEP
THEY ASKED ME IF TATSUKI WAS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH ANYONE YOU DON'T KNOW IF HE WENT AND DID SOMETHING, DO YOU?
THE POLICE WERE JUST HERE
WHAT? WHY?!
HUH? HEY, WAIT!
YUUTO
HEY I THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD TELL THEM ABOUT KAZU--
WOW, LOOK AT THE TIME! GOOD LUCK IN THE BIG GAME TOMORROW!

HAS HE BEEN HAVING ANY SORT OF TROUBLE WITH ANYONE LATELY?
INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL
I HOPE SO
YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOUR COUSIN TATSUKI, RIGHT?
UM, CAN I HELP YOU, OFFICERS?

BUT THAT WAS...
THEY'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT FIGHT YESTERDAY, ARE THEY?
TROUBLE?


NO, NO- NOT AT ALL
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU
UM, SIR? TATSUKI HASN'T, LIKE BROKEN THE LAW, HAS HE?
HM ALL RIGHT
ER, NO
NO ONE IN PARTICULAR

GOOD LUCK OUT THERE!
KOTAROOOU!
MI--
CHIBA!
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO COME?!
OH?!
ALL RIGHT, STARTERS ON THE COURT
WOO!
THERE'S LITTLE JOY IN TORTURING THE DEPRESSED
CHIBA'S REALLY SWEET DEEP DOWN.
SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT KOTAROU, DESPITE THEIR BICKERING


I CAN'T TELL KOTAROU WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON. HELP FIND OUT ABOUT TATSUKI'S POWER!
AND I PROMISED I WOULDN'T TELL
I HAVE TO FIND TATSUKI!
PLEASE DON'T LET KOUTARI GET THERE BEFORE ME!
OH, STUPID KOUTARI
THE POLICE ARE REALLY MOVING ON THIS
THAT CAN'T BE GOOD NEWS.

Hey
Sup?
Long time no see!
THERE YOU ARE
STAY ON YOUR TOES TODAY, KOTAROU! DON'T FORGET- WE'RE ENEMIES NOW!
DO YOUR WORST, SIR!
The next day.
SQUEAK

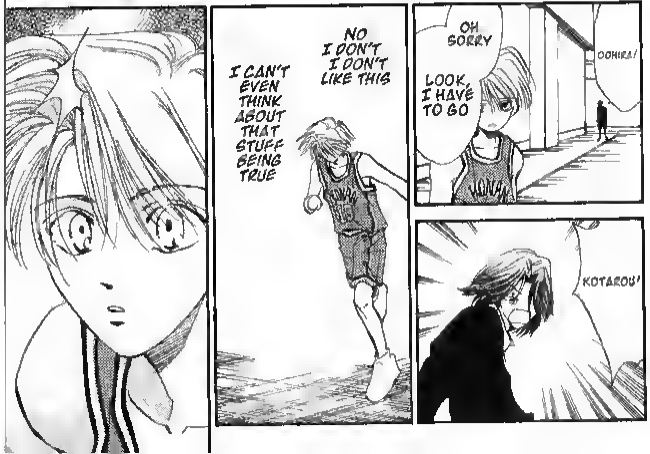
HOLD ON A MINUTE
WHA?
25
WAIT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, OOHIRA?
YEAH, RIGHT.
DOES THAT SOUND LIKE ME?
TELL ME THE TRUTH!
YOU CAN'T KEEP IGNORING ME LIKE THIS!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY, YUUTO. I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO TATSUKI?
YUUTO!

!
KOTAROU
!
YUUTO! OH MY GOD!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
HUH?
LISTEN
YOU MUST KNOW WHERE TATSUKI COULD BE RIGHT? SOME PLACE I DON'T KNOW?
HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR TATSUKI SINCE YOU CALLED ME LAST NIGHT?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE DIDN'T SLEEP AT ALL!
HE'S GOT CIRCLES UNDER HIS EYES.
WAIT A SECOND
YUUTO...

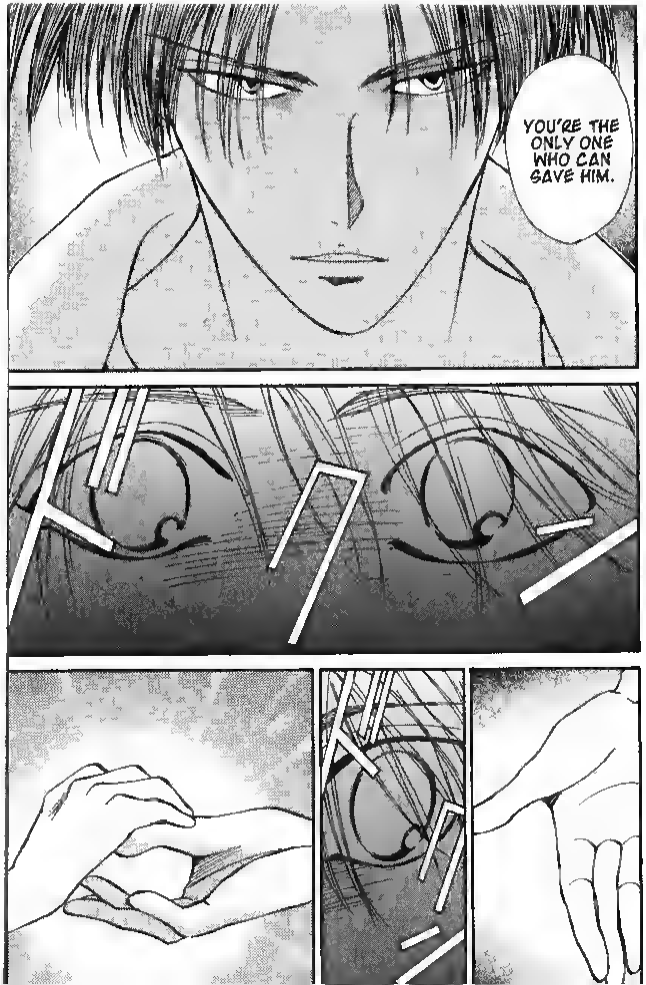
KAZUMA CUT THE...
KOUTARI CUT THE BRAKE HOSE ON TATSUKI'S BIKE!
TATSUKI KNEW THAT! DON'T YOU GET IT?!
!
KAZUMA'S THE REASON MY GRAMPA DIED?
WANTED KAZUMA TO...
SO THEN TATSUKI...
WAIT A MINUTE
KAZUMA CAME TO OUR HOUSE THE NIGHT BEFORE THE ACCIDENT
AND AND TATSUKI WAS PARANOID ABOUT SOMETHING AFTER HE LEFT
IT CAN'T BE TRUE
NO. THAT'S CRAZY

K-KOUTARI
I CAN'T...
BUT HOW--
KAZUMA'S WHAT? FAULT?
IT WAS... KOUTARI'S...
THE ACCIDENT
IT WASN'T TATSUKI'S FAULT
HUH?
YUUTO...

IT...IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU!
I PROMISED NOT TO TELL YOU!
I LOSE IT WHEN I TOUCH YOU!
GODDAMMIT!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TODAY?
.....
YUUTO, YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE.


I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT STUFF BEING TRUE
NO I DON'T I DON'T LIKE THIS
OH SORRY
LOOK, I HAVE TO GO
OOHIRA!
KOTAROU!

LISTEN TO ME!
I DON'T EVEN WANNA THINK IT
KOTAROU!
YOU'RE WRONG YUUTO
YOU HAVE TO BE
TATSUKI AND KOUTARI ARE TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER!
THEY HAVE THE SAME POWER
THEY'RE DESPERATE AND UNSTABLE AND THEY'VE TURNED ON EACH OTHER!
IT RUINED THEIR LIVES!


YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE HIM.
KOI

UDOU?!
WHO'S THAT?
AN ALUM?
HUH
HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT OPTION, KOTAROU

IT'S EASY TO JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND MOVE ON WITH YOUR LIFE
15
MR UDOU

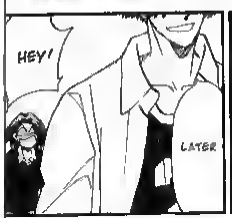
THE WORSE MY POWER GETS
THE CLOSER WE BECOME
THE HORROR AND THE MONSTERS.
...THEY'RE VIOLATING MY MIND.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
I'M FREEZING UP AND BREAKING APART
WHEN I TOUCH KOTA, I SEE BAD THINGS.
QUIT LYING, TATSUKI.
YOUR GAME'S GETTING OLD
LOOK--OVER THERE!

THE BRAKES AREN'T WORKING!
WHO CAN I HATE?
I CAN'T HURT KOTAROU
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?!
THIS IS ALL KOTAROU'S FAULT
YOU KNOW HE'D ACCEPT YOU.
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES
WHATEVER YOU'RE HIDING, YOU KNOW HE'D BE OKAY WITH IT.
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SUFFER.
I DO KNOW.

AAHHH!!
...PROTECTING ME.
TATSUKI, NO!
I'LL KILL HIM.
YOU CAN'T!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
KOTAROU!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

HE'S STILL KIND AND GENTLE
HE NEVER STOPPED...
T-TAK-KUN. THAT WAS TAK-KUN
HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL
KOTAROU?!
WHAT THE HELL?

THERE'S AN ENTIRE WORLD OUT THERE THAT YOU BOYS DON'T UNDERSTAND YET
AND IT'S FULL OF PEOPLE
OTHER THAN THAT DETECTIVE

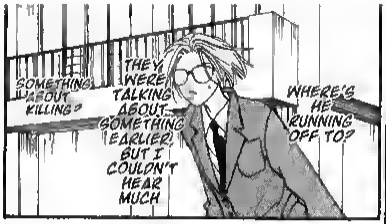

HEY!
LATER

DOES HE MEAN THAT COP FROM EARLIER?
DOES UDOU KNOW HIM?
DETECTIVE?

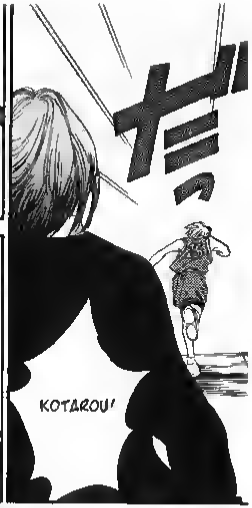
I'M SORRY REALLY

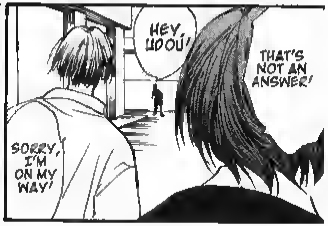
SORRY, KAREN
I NEED THE SPACE FOR KOTARO

WAIT UP!
DAMMIT!
CAN I RIDE WITH YOU?

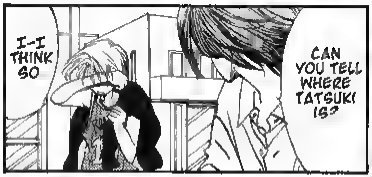

SOMETHING ABOUT KILLING?
THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING EARLIER, BUT I COULDN'T HEAR MUCH
WHERE'S HE RUNNING OFF TO?

HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED A CHICK BREAK OUT OF AN EGG?
IF HE'S HAVING TROUBLE THE MAMA BIRD PECKS A LITTLE FROM THE OUTSIDE
ALL RIGHT UDOU!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU JUST DO?!
25


KOTARO!


HEY, UDOU!
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER!
SORRY, I'M ON MY WAY!

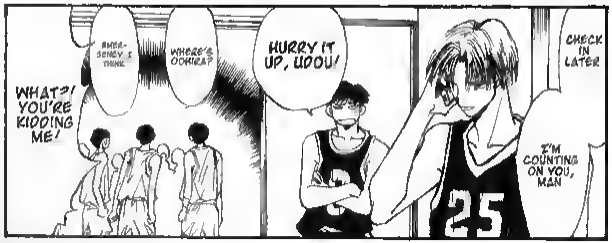
WHO ARE YOU UDOU? TELL ME THE TRUTH!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!


I-I THINK SO
CAN YOU TELL WHERE TATSUKI IS?

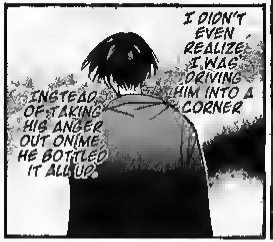
NEED A RIDE?
YUUTO

IT'S OKAY
JUST GET ON AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN

LOOK UM
I'M REALLY SORRY YUUTO


WHAT?! YOU'RE KIDDING ME!
AMBULANCE I THINK
WHERE'S OOMIKA?
HURRY IT UP, UOOU!
CHECK IN LATER
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, MAN
25

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT


I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE I WAS DRIVING HIM INTO A CORNER
INSTEAD OF TAKING HIS ANGER OUT ON ME, HE BOTTLED IT ALL UP.

I CAN HEAR TATSUKI'S VOICE

BUT TATSUKI JUST
MY FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS THERE FOR ME WHEN I FEEL LIKE CRAP

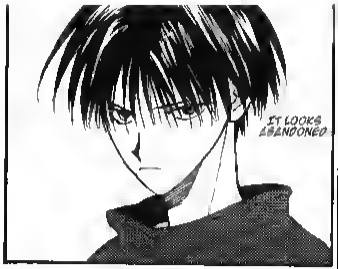
ALL HE COULD DO WAS SHUT EVERYTHING OUT!

NO MORE
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM

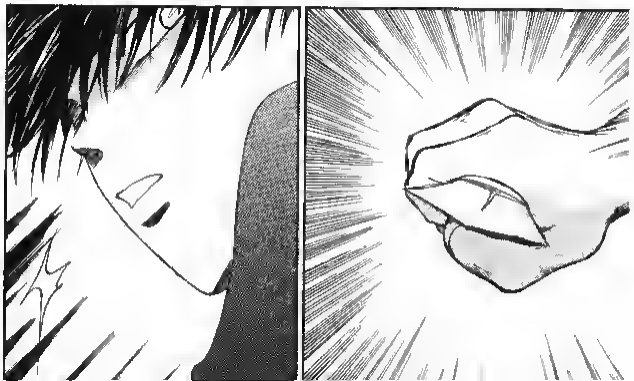
...YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.
...

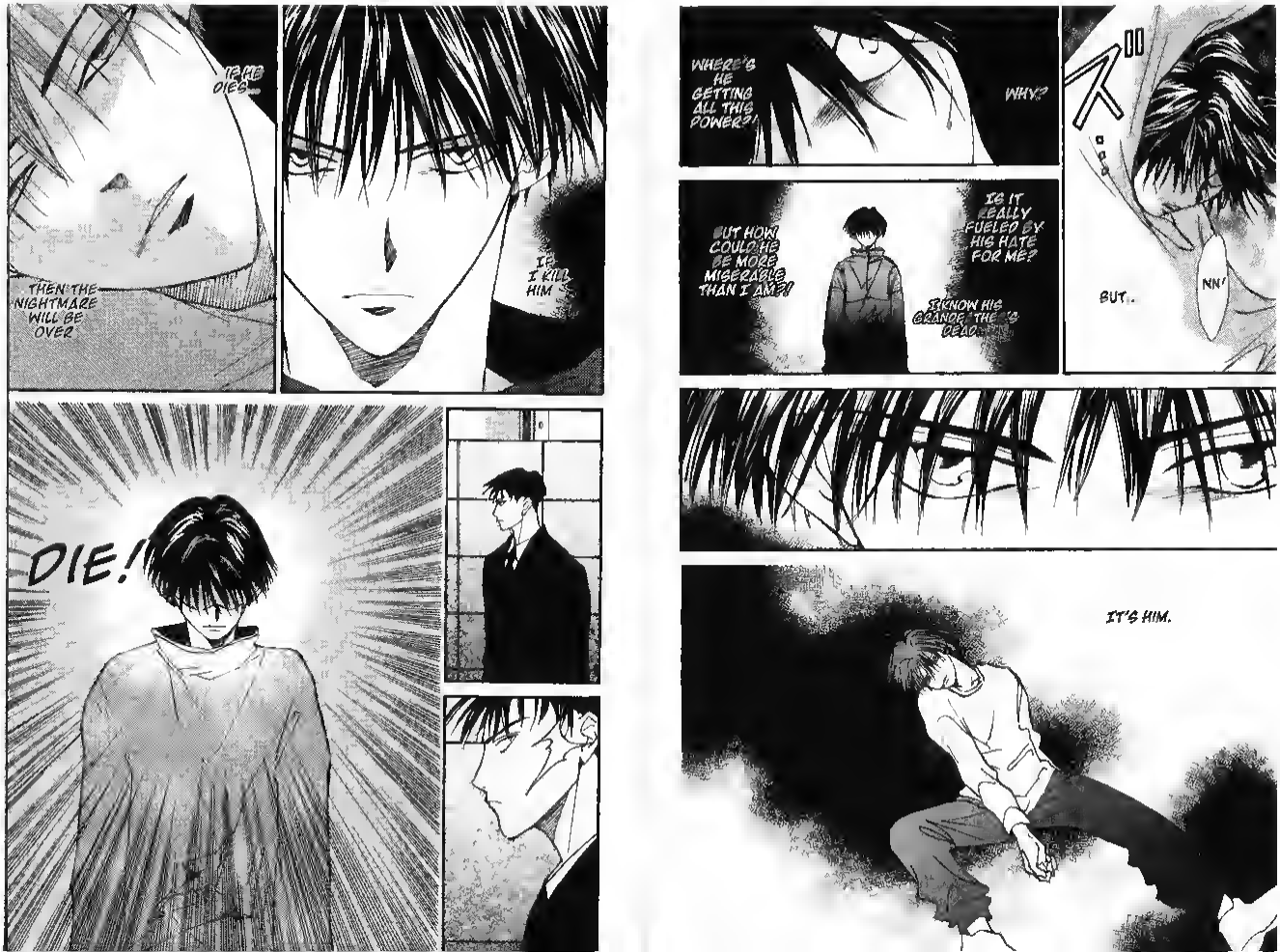
THERE
I'LL FIND YOU
AND WHEN I DO...

SHIT--I MISSED!


IT LOOKS ABANDONED

HE'S INSIDE!




IF HE DIES...
THEN THE NIGHTMARE WILL BE OVER
IF I KILL HIM
DIE!
WHERE'S HE GETTING ALL THIS POWER?
WHY?
BUT HOW COULD HE BE MORE MISERABLE THAN I AM?
IS IT REALLY FUELED BY HIS HATE FOR ME?
I KNOW HIS GRANDMA THE ONLY ONE WHO LOVED HIM IS DEAD.
BUT..
NN!
IT'S HIM.

KOTAROU!
T-TATSUKI
ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T DO IT
PLEASE LEAVE HIM ALONE!
I'M THE ONE YOU REALLY HATE, RIGHT?
I'M THE ONE YOU WANNA TAKE THIS OUT ON

MY GOD
HIS AURA'S GONE COMPLETELY BLACK
DOES THAT MEAN HE'S GONE CRAZY?!
AND THE WAY IT'S SWALLOWING HIM LIKE THAT...
KOTAROU!
?!
OW!
GET BACK HERE!
TATSUKI'S NOT--

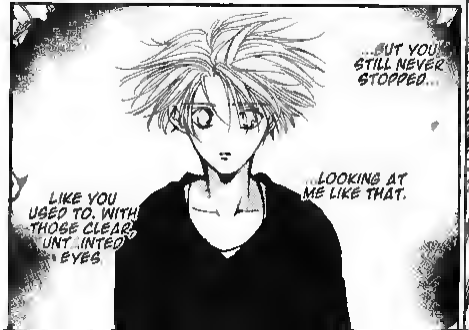
TATSUKI! STO--
!
AH!

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO US? WHY DID WE END UP SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT?
WE WERE THE SAME, WEREN'T WE?

WE WERE THE SAME, WEREN'T WE?!

OR AVOIDING THAT WHITE-SILVER AURA MAYBE? HOW IS THAT EVEN...
IT'S LIKE THE WRECKAGE IS AVOIDING HIM.
WHAT?

YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'VE BECOME A TWISTED, UGLY HUMAN BEING BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DID TO ME...
I DO HATE YOU.


...BUT YOU STILL NEVER STOPPED...
...LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT.
LIKE YOU USED TO. WITH THOSE CLEAR, UNTAINTED EYES.

WE WERE.
WE WERE THE SAME, TATSUKI.
TATSUKI.
I KNOW YOU LOST SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT.
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU
THAT'S WHY..

WHATEVER IT IS YOU LOST...
...I SWEAR I'LL GET IT BACK!
TAK-KUN!

!
ビク
HUH?!
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO?
WHAT KINDA AURA IS THAT?
HE'S GIVING OFF MORE THAN JUST A COLOR
WHAT THE HELL?

I'M SO SORRY!
KOTAROU'S WHITE-SILVER ONE JUST WRAPPED AROUND IT, OR SOMETHING
TATSUKI'S BLACK AURA VANISHED
NN
D-DON'T BOTHER
I DON'T NEED IT, ALL RIGHT?
GGH!
DON'T MOVE THE BONE'S BROKEN
NNGH!
AN AMBULANCE WILL ARRIVE IN FIVE MINUTES
STAY THERE
WHAT?

THAT BOY...

スウ…

WAIT.

THESE FLOWERS WERE DEAD.
HE BROUGHT THEM BACK?!

TH-THE PAIN'S GONE.

WHY?!

IT WAS A JOKE BREATHE.

DON'T YOU DARE START WITH ME! IF YOU CARED SO DAMN MUCH, WHY DIDN'T YOU GO?!
That's fragrant sensuality.
WHAT?! YOU CAN'T JUST HOLD OUT ON ME!

SO, HOW'D YOU-KNOW-WHAT GO?
OH, NO.
YOU LOST YOUR CHANCE

HM?
MORE HAPPENED THAN WE EXPECTED

IT'S THE LOVE/HATE FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST THE LONGEST
HEH HEH
THERE THEY GO AGAIN

MVP
IT WAS, COMRADE
AN EASY WIN, WASN'T IT, UDOU?
YOU KIDS HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT TEAMWORK
OOHIRA GETS STRANGLED TOMORROW.
DO YOU SPEND YOUR PRACTICES BRAIDING EACH OTHER'S HAIR?

MAN, DID WE KICK SOME HIGH SCHOOL ASS!

I DIDN'T KNOW COPS WERE SO LOADED.
YEAH, YOU ROCK!
BY THE WAY, SENDAI-- THANKS FOR TREATING TONIGHT.
EXCUSE ME?
UDOU TOLD US YOU WERE PAYING.
TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT PLAYING IN THE GAME, RIGHT? YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

Welcome!
HEY
KIBA!
YOU'RE LATE, DUDE!

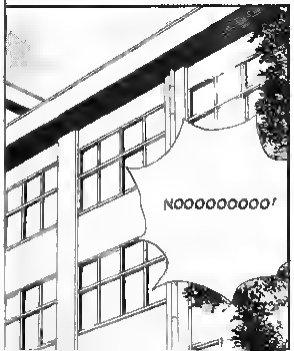
* ACT 23 * END

WHAT A HAPPY KID HE/DOESN'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD
MAN, TO BE THAT AGE AGAIN

HEY, AKIRA
I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU
YOU'RE OAEN RIGHT IT'S COOL!

AKIRA
DADDY!

SEE YA!
LET'S PLAY BASKETBALL AGAIN SOON
SURE, BUDDY


NOOOOOOOOO!

ALL RIGHT IF HE CAN BE CHIPPER, I CAN BE CHIPPER THINK CHIPPER!
YES!

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME.
I KNOW SOMETHING HAPPENED TWO NIGHTS AGO, BUT MY MEMORY OF IT'S ALL HAZY
I MEAN TATSUKI'S BEEN ASLEEP SINCE THEN. WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

GOOD MORNING!
HEY, BIG BRO!

NBA
DADDY BOUGHT ME A CAP FROM THE NBA STORE!
LOOKIT, LOOKIT! ISN'T THIS COOL?

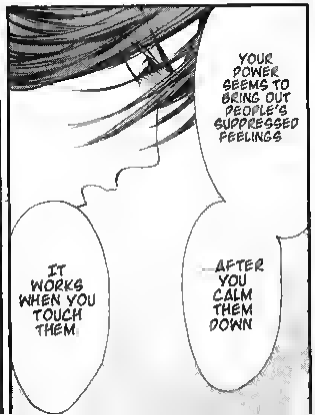
KOTAROU, LOOK. YOU'VE BEEN IN THE DARK ABOUT IT A WHILE
BUT YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF POWER, OKAY?
TATSUKI WAS GOING BALLISTIC, BUT YOU SNUFFED OUT HIS ABILITY TO BLOW THE HELL OUT OF TOKYO.

YOU SPEAK CRAZY!
WHAT? I DID NOT!

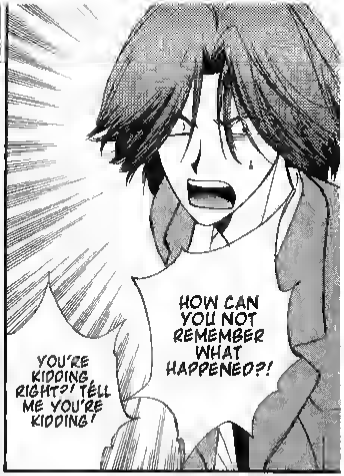
AS IF I COULD REALLY-
ARE YOU ON DRUGS?

WHA?!

HUH?


YOUR POWER SEEMS TO BEING OUT PEOPLE'S SUPPRESSED FEELINGS
AFTER YOU CALM THEM DOWN
IT WORKS WHEN YOU TOUCH THEM

WELL, I CAN REMEMBER UP TO WHERE TATSUKI SENT ME FLYING THAT PART'S DEFINITELY CLEAR
AFTER THAT IT'S KINDA A BLUR


HOW CAN YOU NOT REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?!
YOU'RE KIDDING RIGHT?! TELL ME YOU'RE KIDDING!

IT'S TRUE HE SET UP TATSUKI'S ACCIDENT- CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
NO WAY!
YEAH-- KOUTARI GOT ARRESTED!
DIDJA HEAR?

I-I THOUGHT YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING WHY CAN'T THIS EVER BE EASY?
UH, YUUTO?

THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER IS BEING BACK HOME, WITH TATSUKI SICK IN BED..

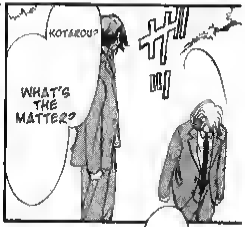
USE YOUR BRAIN FOR ONCE AND GO HOME!
BUT I WANNA SEEEE!
THE DOCTOR SAID IT'S JUST FATIGUE, SO WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY MUCH
rattle
HE SHOULD BE
HE'S BEEN ASLEEP FOR SO LONG
IS TATSUKI GOING TO BE OKAY?

WHO'S SHE?
TATSUKI'S MOM
TATSUKI, KOTAROU'S HOME.
HUH?
AUNTIE/ UM, HI!
HI THERE, KOTAROU
WELCOME HOME
I FORGOT YOU WERE COMING BACK TODAY
WHAT'D SHE JUST SAY?

I JUST TOUCHED THE BRANCH, AND...THE FLOWERS BLOOMED.
WHAT HAPPENED?

AND WHY IS THIS BRANCH THE ONLY ONE BLOOMING?

HM. THAT'S WEIRD.
HIS AURA'S GONE PURPLE.
DID SOMETHING SCARE HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN?


KOTAROU?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

NOTHING
I JUST DIDN'T NOTICE THEM, RIGHT?
NO WAY
I'M SEEING THINGS. THOSE FLOWERS WERE ALWAYS THERE!

TATSUKI...?
PLEASE COME IN
THANK YOU
EGAD!
TATSUKI!
THANK GEJEEZUS YOU'EE AWAKE!
.....
IT WAS NO TROUBLE
ちら
AND BECAUSE WE COULDN'T MAKE IT THE FUNERAL, WE HAD TO INCONVENIENCE MY SISTER
I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, KOTAROU.
IT SEEMS THIS SON OF MINE HAS BEEN QUITE THE BURDEN

OH
HELLO, KOTAROU
TATSUKI!
YOU'RE AWAKE!
Y...

YOU LOOK PALE- YOU'D BETTER GET BACK TO BED UP YOU GO!
!?
OH, FORGIVING OUT LOUD! CAN THOSE TWO GET ANY MORE HIGH MAINTENANCE?
LET'S GET MOVING ON THE HEALTHY COMMUNICATION, PEOPLE!
HEY, SUNSHINE
HM?
UM, MIO...
WHY?
LET'S GO TO MY ROOM

WHAT'S ALL THIS?
.....
JUST SHUT UP AND COME
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHOOPS! SILLY ME!
I SEEM TO HAVE SHOVED YOU INTO THE WRONG ROOM!
HUH?
LET GO OF ME
STEP ASIDE A SEC, MIO.

LET'S SIT, KOTAROU
MM.
!
GOD, WHAT DO I DO NOW?
AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO SAY
HE- HE'S REALLY AWAKE
I GUESS THAT MEANS HE'S OKAY

WELL, THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.
AN AURA THAT ORANGE MEANS HE'S PRETTY UPSET.
HE'S PROBABLY TIED UP IN KNOTS OVER KOTAROU FINDING OUT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TATSUKI? CAN'T HANDLE YOUR COUSIN BEING HERE?

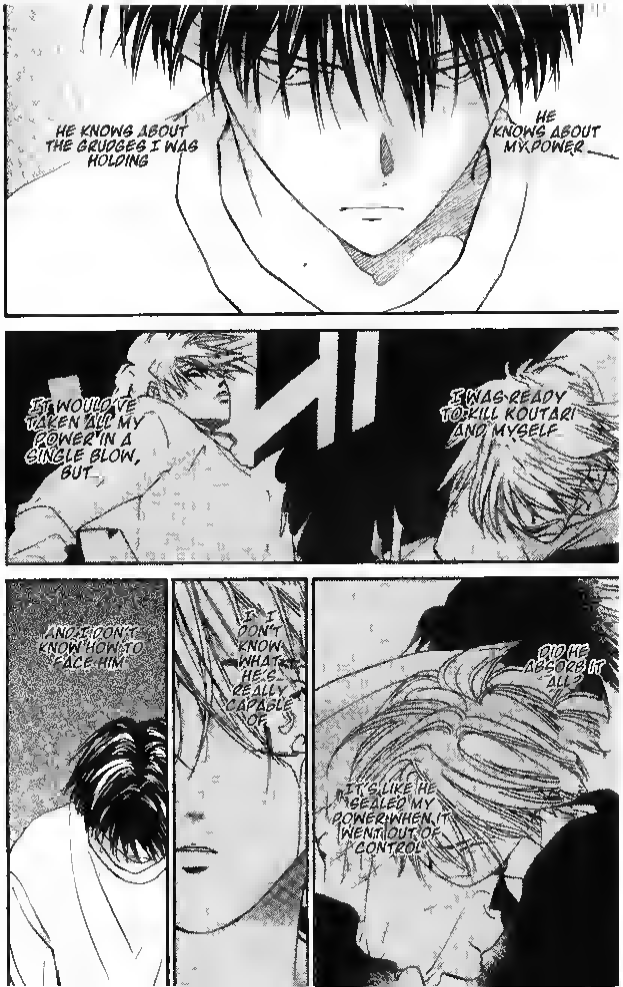
NOTE TO SELF: KICK YUUTO'S ASS
Y-YUUTO, YOU JERK!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW NOT FUNNY THIS IS!
OPEN THE DOOR! NOW!
OH, GOD
HOW TERRIBLY OBASTIC THINK OF THE SCREAMING
WE LIVE IN OBASTO TOWN
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY SAYING SOMETHING
HEY
HOW, UH
HOW'RE YOU FEELING?
HE WON'T EVEN LOOK AT ME

YUUTO!
TATSUKI?!

TATSUKI, ARE YOU AWAKE?
I BROUGHT YOU SOME COFFEE
CAN YOU OPEN THE DOOR?
HERE- BRING THESE TO HIS ROOM
THERE'S ONE FOR EACH OF YOU, SO AT THE VERY LEAST YOU CAN STAY UNTIL YOU'RE BOTH FINISHED
AND IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO TALK, YOU CAN JUST DRINK
OKAY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FACE HIM
HE'S SO DIFFI- CULT
AH, POO
creee
EEK!
ACK!

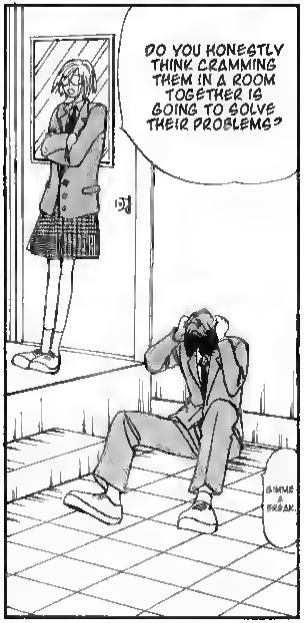
HE'S BEEN HURTING AND ALONE FOR SO LONG BECAUSE OF THAT..
HE STARTED SEEING ALL KINDS OF NASTY THINGS BECAUSE OF ME
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN BLAME HIM
I DON'T THINK TOUGH LOVE IS THE WAY WE SHOULD HANDLE THIS RIGHT NOW
KOTARO, COME WITH ME!
TATSUKI!
?!
MOVE
GACK!

HEY--WE HEARD ABOUT KOUTARI
THAT'S SOME MESSED-UP SHIT
WHEN'D HE START GOING ALL PSYCHO ON YA?
LEG
IS YOUR LEG OKAY NOW?
WELCOME BACK, TATSUKI!
I DON'T NEED ANY YUUTO FAVORS
OH, I'M AWARE
WELL, TATSUKI'S AS DETAIL-ORIENTED AS ALWAYS
JUST LEAVE IT.
HE'S NOT EVEN GLANCING AT YOU ACCIDENTALLY
YUUTO?
OW! MY HEAD!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH--OW!


HE KNOWS ABOUT THE GRUDGES I WAS HOLDING
HE KNOWS ABOUT MY POWER
IT WOULD'VE TAKEN ALL MY POWER IN A SINGLE BLOW, BUT
I WAS READY TO KILL KOUTARI AND MYSELF
AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FACE HIM
I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S REALLY CAPABLE OF
DID HE ABSORB IT ALL?
IT'S LIKE HE SEALED MY POWER WHEN IT WENT OUT OF CONTROL

SOMEONE GIVE A NO-PRIZE TO MR. HALF-A-BRAIN

IF YOU'RE GONNA LIE, KEEP IT SIMPLE
JUST TELL THEM BOTH THE OTHER WANTS TO TALK

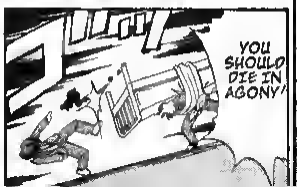

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK CRAMMING THEM IN A ROOM TOGETHER IS GOING TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS?
GIMME A BREAK.

YEAH, SURE. PULLING THE WOOL OVER TATSUKI'S EYES IS A PIECE OF CAKE
I'M SURE YOU'LL MANAGE.

WHAT'S THIS NOW?

YOU STUPID
NNGH! DAMN YOU!
I'M DOING THIS ALL FOR YOU, MAN!
HEY!
JUST RELAX, OKAY?
MM
JUST ONE THING
LIE DOWN AND I'LL GET A TEACHER

YOU SHOULD GO CHECK ON HIM!
KOTAROU COLLAPSED IN A COMPLETELY BELIEVABLE MANNER I BROUGHT HIM TO THE NURSE


YOU SHOULD DIE IN AGONY!

TATSUKI!
HURRY, IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

THANK, MIO. I'M COUNTING ON YOU
MR DONUT AT EIGHT, RIGHT?
I'M SURE I CAN CONVINCE HIM TO GO
ALL RIGHT.

JUST LEAVE IT TO MEEE
YOU'VE GOT YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU.
BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK TATSUKI WILL COME?

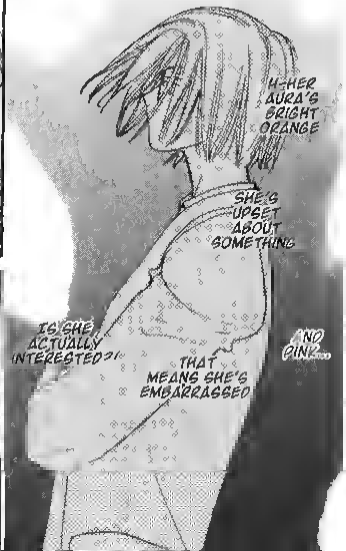
TATSUKI ACTUALLY ACCEPTED?
YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

HUH?!

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M EXTREMELY PICKY
HAS MISS KAREN FINALLY FALLEN FOR THE ROGUISHLY CHARMING YUUTO?

DEAR GOD!
WHAT?
HUH? UH
YOU'RE TOUGH TO PLEASE

YIKES.
EASY, YUUTO. JUST PLAY IT COOL.


HER AURA'S BRIGHT ORANGE
SHE'S UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING.
IS SHE ACTUALLY INTERESTED?!
THAT MEANS SHE'S EMBARRASSED
AND DING!

LET ME JUST REMIND YOU
THAT KILLING THE MESSENGER BREAKS INTERNATIONAL LAW
THAT SAID, KOTAROU WANTS TO TALK
HE ASKED YOU TO WAIT AT MR. DONUT AT EIGHT- HE'LL COME AFTER WORK
I'M SURE THAT'S A LIE
IS NOT!
AND THE KOTAROU THING'S TRUE TOO!

SO I ASKED TATSUKI IF HE WOULDN'T MIND COMING TO MR. DONUT AT EIGHT O'CLOCK TONIGHT.
IT'S, UM, TRUE!
I DON'T MEAN TO BE A BACKSEAT DRIVER OR ANYTHING, BUT I THOUGHT YOU TWO MIGHT NEED A THIRD PARTY

.....

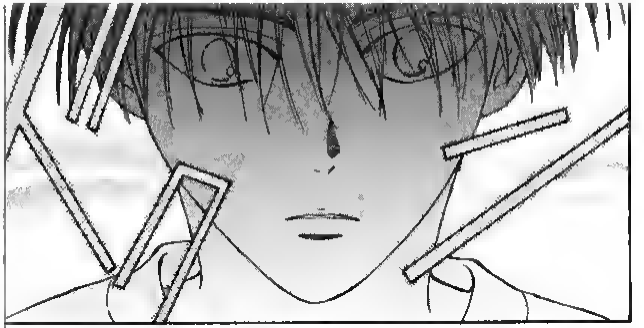
WELL...
YES.
AND TATSUKI AGREED? TATSUKI OOHIRA?
HE ACTUALLY WANTS TO TALK?

ALL RIGHT..
THANKS, MIO
I'LL BE THERE

YEAH, RIGHT TATSUKI WOULDN'T DO THAT.
STILL IF IT'S REALLY TRUE, AND HE REALLY WANTS TO MEET UP
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANNA START DISTRUSTING MY GIRLFRIEND OR ANYTHING, BUT I KNOW TATSUKI'S AVOIDING ME.

YOU LET HIM SUFFER THROUGH THIS ALONE, AND YOU'RE JUST CONTINUING THE CYCLE IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
!
HE'S A PSYCHIC THAT MUCH IS OBVIOUS
AND HIS POWER'S TAKEN A DRASTIC TURN RECENTLY
YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T NOTICE
NOW GET OFF YOUR ASS AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HIM. YOU SHOULD BE.
BLUE-GREEN
THAT'S RIGHT, BROODY.
creak
ALL RIGHT
DONUT AT EIGHT.
DON'T FORGET THAT!

.....
COME ON, MAN
BUT ALL YOU DO IS IGNORE HIM
WELL IN A ROUND-ABOUT WAY, GRANTED
HE HONESTLY WANTS TO TALK TO YOU, TATSUKI
DO YOU REALLY WANT HIM TO GO THROUGH EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID?
?
NOW THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING HOLDING YOU BACK FROM BEING HONEST WITH HIM.
I'M SORRY I TOLD HIM ABOUT YOUR POWER, BUT IT HAPPENED AND YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT.
THINK ABOUT IT.



ALL I REMEMBER IS NOT WANTING TO LEAVE JAPAN
WHY DID I STAY?
WAIT

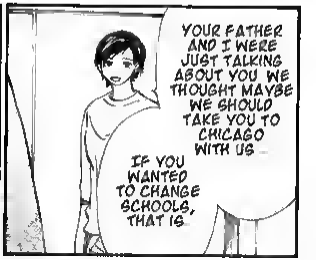
FOR HIM TO SAVE ME?
OR WAS I WAITING...
DID I WANT TO SEE KOTAROU AGAIN?
WAS HE THE REASON?
BUT, WHY?

トントン
THERE YOU ARE, TATSUKI

THANKS, MRS. OOHIRA
HM? OH, SURE.

ｱﾘｶﾞﾄｳ

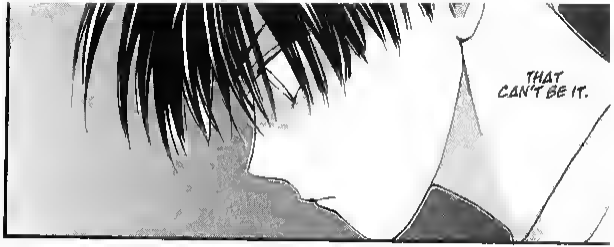
I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU WANTED TO GO TO HIGH SCHOOL IN TOKYO INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING YOUR FATHER'S TRANSFER
YOU MUST'VE KNOWN KOTAROU WOULD BE WITH YOU, HM?
HOW WOULD I--


YOUR FATHER AND I WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU. WE THOUGHT MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE YOU TO CHICAGO WITH US.
IF YOU WANTED TO CHANGE SCHOOLS, THAT IS.

BUT YOU SEEM FINE
YOU HAVE FRIENDS HERE, NOT TO MENTION YOUR COUSIN.
YEAH.

OOOH, GOOD CALL
LET'S GIVE HIM A SHOT
CHECK IT OUT
ISN'T HE CUTE?
UH SORRY
I'M WAITING FOR SOMEONE
REALLY?
HEY THERE. YOU ALONE?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME COMPANY

NN?
AND I'M GONNA BE WAITING UNTIL MY CLOTHES GO OUT OF STYLE, BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY TATSUKI WOULD ACTUALLY...
SIGH
WAITING. RIGHT
NUTS!
HE'S GOT A GIRL COMING


THAT CAN'T BE IT.

YOU LET HIM SUFFER THROUGH THIS ALONE, AND YOU'RE JUST CONTINUING THE CYCLE. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE...
THEN THERE'S A CYCLE TO CONTINUE
THIS TIME, IT'S MY TURN TO...

NOW KOTAROU CAN OPEN UP HIS LITTLE HEART, AND I CAN RESTART MINE.
THANK GOODNESS!
ABOUT TIME
WE ROCK SO VERY HARD!
HE CAME?!
YUUTO, HE CAME!
OH!
COME ON
UM, SURE
KOTAROU!
HUH?
GOSH, LOOK AT THAT.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT CAR?!
キィ
!?
KOTAROU, LOOK OUT!
ドン

AAAAAAAAAAH!
HEY.
CAME TO TALK TO ME
トン
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
HE ACTUALLY SERIOUSLY
H-HE CAME? HE CAME?!
It was a guy Eek!
GAH!
I MEAN, UH HI?

ACT 25

ACT 24 * END

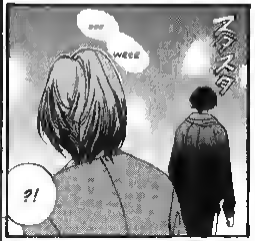
GGH
SO HE WAS DRUNK?
THIS WAS REALLY AN ACCIDENT?
I SMELL ALCOHOL
TATSUKI?
clang
HEY
NN
!
SOMEONE WAS WATCHING THIS.
IT LOOKED LIKE THE CAR WAS AIMING FOR KOTAROU.
WAS THAT JUST MY IMAGINATION?

YUUTO
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AND WHY'S MIO WITH YOU?
OH MY GOD
HEY ARE YOU OKAY?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOUR ARM?
TATSUKI KNOCKED ME OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE--
OW.
NOT DEAD. OKAY, YUUTO-- BREATHE.
You see Him?
Call 911!

.....
TATSUKI HATES HOSPITALS, RIGHT?
ANYWAY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM- YOU JUST GET THAT ARM LOOKED AT.
HE WHAT?
WHY?

SOMETIMES I JUST DON'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT HEAD OF HIS.
AND HERE I THOUGHT WE WERE GONNA TALK AND MAYBE DAMMIT!
DAMMIT

WEEE
GO THE HOSPITAL, GENIUS! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU'RE BLEEDING
murmur
murmur
THE AMBULANCE IS THAT WAY!


WEEE
?!

TATSUKI!
WAIT!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

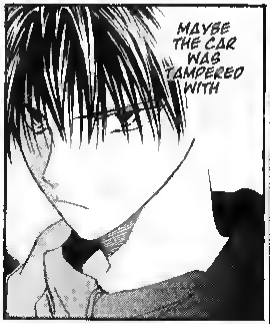
murmur
I KNOW. TATSUKI WENT THAT WAY.
murmur
YUUTO ALREADY WENT AFTER HIM.

Oh, terrific
This genius 's loaded
SURE, BUT...
MIO?
WERE YOU HURT, SON? GET IN
WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

EARTH TO TATSUKI!
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
DAMN
THE DRIVER WAS DRUNK. MYSTERY SOLVED.
I CAN'T SEE.

AH!
!!

THERE'S THE DRIVER.


MAYBE THE CAR WAS TAMPERED WITH

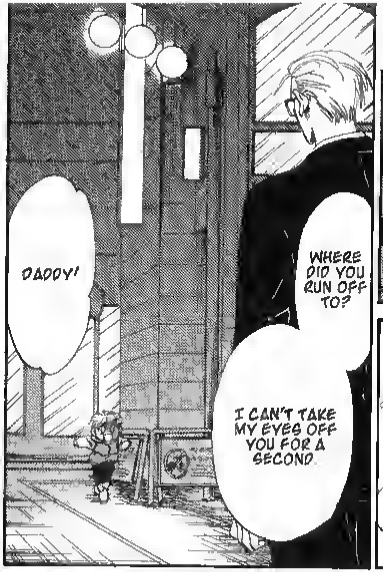
SERIOUSLY, TATSUKI
SOMEBODY WAS TAILING THAT DRUNK
LET'S GO BACK. AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT KOTAROU?
BUT WHO?
AND WHAT FOR?

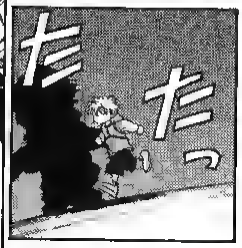
SOMETHING'S WRONG
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING THREATENING ABOUT HIM?
THAT BOY.
ぱっ
CALM DOWN, TATSUKI
AND LAY OFF THE FELONIES
UH, NO
HIM?
YOU NEED MORE SEX, LESS CRAZY
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME AKIRA HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT ACCIDENT, I'VE GOT TWO WORDS FOR YOU--TRAUMA HALLUCINATIONS
...
UNLESS YOU SAW SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME

THE BOY?!
HUH?
OH HEY, AKIRA
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? LET HIM GO!
だッ
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!
GAH!
OW! THAT HURTS!

SORRY ABOUT THIS.
SORTA.
YOU CRACKED THE BONE?!
You've been a real space case lately.
Take these vitamins!
Avoid these cars!
CRIPES, WHAT A DUMBASS!
I'M SORRY, REALLY!
TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF.

WHAT?
NOT LIKE I'M SURPRISED HE WENT TO BOND WITH TATSUKI AND INSTEAD GOT A BUSTED ARM.
A LESS-THAN-PRODUCTIVE EVENING.
YOU AWFUL BOYS ARE TURNING HIS AURA DEEP BLUE.
THE KID IS REALLY DOWN.
AH, CUT HIM SOME SLACK.


DADDY!
WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO?
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU FOR A SECOND.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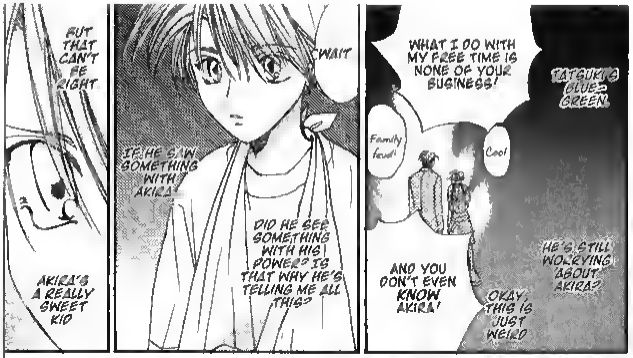
AKIRA
!

LET'S GO HOME.
OKAY!

DIDJA FINISH THAT BUSINESS YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
I DID.


BUT THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT
AKIRA'S A REALLY SWEET KID
WAIT
IS HE S'IN SOMETHING WITH AKIRA?
DID HE SEE SOMETHING WITH HIS POWER? IS THAT WHY HE'S TELLING ME ALL THIS?
WHAT I DO WITH MY FREE TIME IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
TATSUKI'S CLUE: GREEN.
Family feud!
Cool
AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW AKIRA!
HE'S STILL WORRYING ABOUT AKIRA?
OKAY, THIS IS JUST WEIRD

IF TATSUKI ACCEPTED DIRECT INVITATIONS WE WOULDN'T BE DROWNING IN BAGGAGE RIGHT NOW
HELLO KOTAROU!
A LITTLE DIRECT CONTACT AND I'M SURE YOU'LL SEE HE'S HARMLESS
HEY
I HAVE AN IDEA. COME JOIN ME TOMORROW WHEN I GO TO SEE HIM
HUH?!
WHEN AND WHERE?

!
DOWEA

TATSUKI? WHY IS HE HERE?
STAY AWAY FROM AKIRA
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING?

HIS MAJESTY DESCENDS!
HEY

!!

JUST GROW UP AND STOP PLAYING WITH KIDS
ESPECIALLY THAT ONE

WHA?
YOU MEAN TINY, HARMLESS AKIRA?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Endurance max already reached
IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST FOR US TO JUST OBSERVE NOW.
I'D RATHER TATSUKI AND KOTAROU SETTLED THINGS BETWEEN THEM WITHOUT US HAVING TO SCHEME
BUT SCHEMES?
CAN YOU BELIEVE TATSUKI REALLY SHOWED?
I KNOW WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT?
GYAAH!
You coward!
ERGH
BUT MAN

TAKE THAT!
OOOH, HE WAS ROBBED! HERE COMES THE DAKODAK!

AH!
HE SEEMS NORMAL FOR HIS AGE, AT LEAST.
MAYBE I'M GETTING PARANOID
BUT HIM HANGING AROUND THE ACCIDENT SEEMED LIKE MORE THAN COINCIDENCE

BION
PASS IT HERE AKIRA!
AH, CRAP!
NOT AGAIN!
TATSUKI!
TENACIOUS D TENACIOUS D!
Hn
Dammit he's good
DON'T BE SUCH A CREEP!
LIKE I CARE
THEY'RE FIRST-GRADERS, ALL RIGHT? EASE UP!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
AH
I CAN'T SEE HIS AURA!
YOU MUST BE YUUTO
AKIRA
YOU ARE SORELY MISTAKEN
AND THIS IS TATSUKI, THE COOLEST
C-COOLEST?!
NUH-UH, DADDY! DADDY'S THE COOLEST
CRAP
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

AKIRA'S DAD IS OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER
SENSEI?
IT'S YUKIGATO-SENSEI!
AND OLD LIKE, EW
OOOH HELLOOO DADDY!
BASKET-BALL AGAIN?
DADDY DADDY DADDY!
AND THAT PRETTY GIRL MUST BE MIGG MIO
KOTAROU THE BASKETBALL STAR YES?
STAR?
ER, YOU FLATTER ME
He's blushing!
WHAT?!
He said I'm pretty!
HELLO
I'M AKIRA'S FATHER
YOU'RE THAT YOUNG MAN WHO PLAYS WITH MY SON, AREN'T YOU?
HE CAN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT YOU

HUH?
AKIRA
YOU MUST LOVE YOUR MOM TOO, RIGHT?
.....
I AM AN IDIOT!
OH!
ME AND MY BIG MOUTH
SHE GOT REALLY SICK AND DIED!
!
YOU DUMMY!
DON'T TALK ABOUT HIS MOM
YEAH I'D LIKE THAT
.....
AKIRA
I'LL BRING HER PICTURE NEXT TIME
YUP! I LOVE MOMMY TOO

MORONIC PARENTAL LOVE
GLOMP
AKIRA'S THE COOLEST!
IS HE THIS CREEPY IN SCHOOL?
NO
HE'S THE MAN!
GYEE HEE HEE HEE!
YOU GUYS
ARE OKAY
HOW 'BOUT ME?
HOW 'BOUT ME?
IS THAT SO?
DO YOU LOVE BIG SISTER?
OH
NOOOO!
MY LIFE HAS BEEN REDUCED TO "OKAY"
HRMM!
YUP!
AKIRA, YOU MUST REALLY LOVE YOUR DAD
I LOVE LOTSA PEOPLE.
DADDY, BIG BROTHER KOTAROU, YUUTO, AND TATSUKI!

WAAAAAAH!
WAAAAAAH!
WAAAAAAH!
AKIRA
WHAT HAPPENED?!
HE WAS FINE, AND THEN HE JUST
DID I DO THAT?
IS THAT WHAT MY POWER DOES TO PEOPLE?
HE... HE STARTED CRYING AFTER I TOUCHED HIM
KOTARO
SHIT!

ばっ
!
!
WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH?!

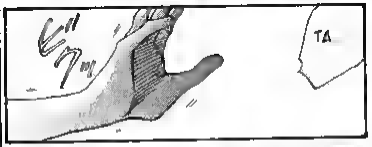
KOTARO!
JUST BE HOME BEFORE DARK
YES, SENSEI
COME ON, AKIRA
BIG BOYS DON'T CRY
AND THERE'S A GAME TO PLAY, RIGHT?
sniff
GOOD
sniff
Mm
Hic!
OKAY
WH- WHOA
HE'LL BE FINE--AND BOTH HE AND I VALUE YOUR FRIENDSHIP VERY HIGHLY.
DON'T WORRY YOURSELF OVER THIS
413

YOU'RE PANICKING, AREN'T YOU?
I STILL REMEMBER WHAT IT FEELS LIKE DEALING WITH IT AT THE BEGINNING
BUT EVEN IF I UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S GOING THROUGH
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT
sniff
Hic!
MAYBE IT WAS HIM.
I GUESS HE COULD'VE RELEASED AKIRA'S SUPPRESSED FEELINGS ABOUT HIS MOTHER

WHAT'S WRONG?
!?
TATSUKI?!
GGGH
AGH!
WHAT JUST--
MY HEAD!

TATSUKI!
IS IT YOUR HEAD?
HEY ARE YOU OKAY?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!

NNNGH!
UM, I THINK WE SHOULD CALL AN AMBULANCE!
RIGHT. COULD YOU DO THAT?

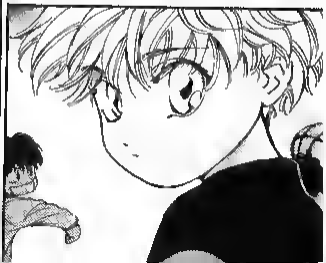

TA

IT MIGHT SET OFF SOMETHING ELSE REALLY BAD
WAIT I-- I CAN'T TOUCH HIM

THAT WAS WEIRD
I FEEL A LOT BETTER ALL OF A SUDDEN

SO AKIRA'S DAD IS GIFTED TOO?
AT SOON AS YUKISATO TOUCHED HIM, KOTAROU'S AURA TURNED REALLY WHITE AND BRIGHT.
SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED THERE.

MAYBE HE'S GOT A POWER LIKE UDOU'S.
YOU MUST'VE SEEN THAT.

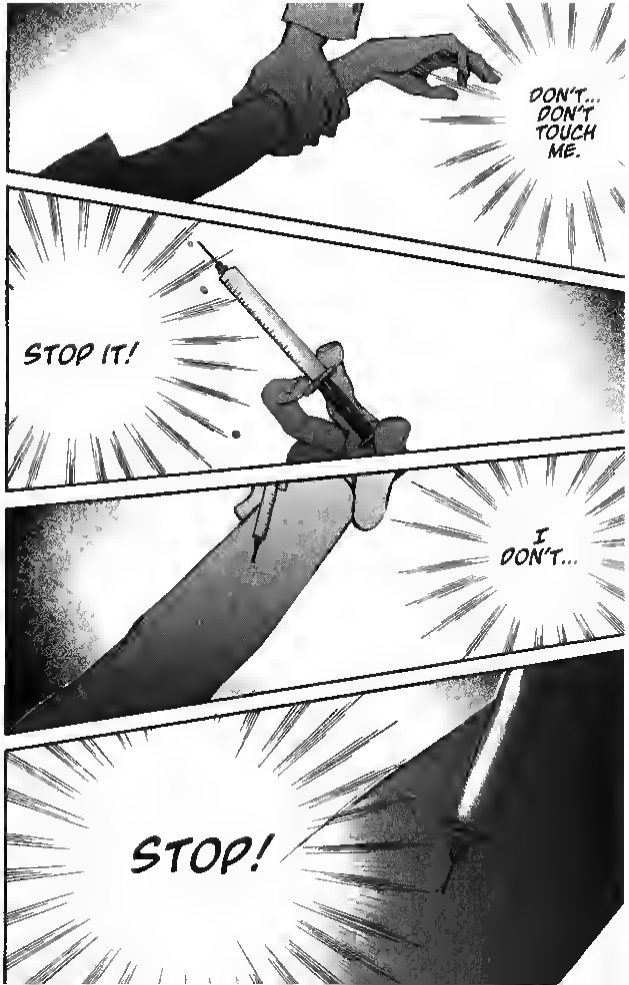


WE'LL TALK TO HIM AND DO A MORE COMPLETE SCREENING WHEN HE WAKES UP
BUT IT MAY STILL BE PSYCHOLOGICAL
WELL, HIS TESTS CAME BACK--- EVERYTHING SEEMS NORMAL
HE'S STABLE AND ASLEEP NOW
YES?
DOCTOR.
43
ME?
YOU EXPLAIN
YOU STINK!
43
I KNOW, RIGHT?
I DON'T THINK HE'S SICK
WELL, A HM
HOW DO I SAY THIS?
IT'S PROBABLY JUST BECAUSE HE HAS A_
SO LET'S JUST LET HIM REST FOR NOW.
HEADACHES CAN BE CAUSED BY EMOTIONAL TRAUMA
YOU CAN'T EXACTLY TELL THE DOCTOR "HE'S CRAZY, ASSES!"

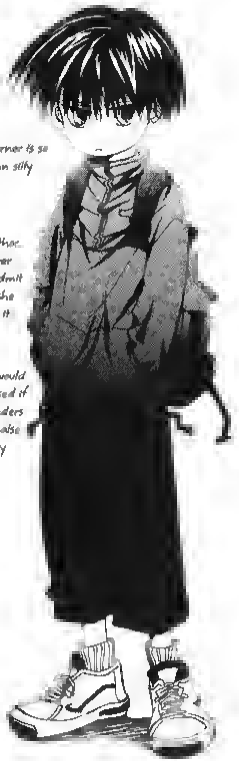
SOMETHING'S RIPPING APART MY SKULL!
GOD...
HE'S REALLY IN PAIN!
IS HIS POWER ACTING UP AGAIN?

I REMEMBER...
GETTING A HEADACHE IN THE PARK BUT
WHERE THE HELL AM I?
THE HOSPITAL?
GH...
WHAT ARE YOU
!!
SOMEONE'S TOUCHING MY ARM.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
WHO
WHAT?! A NEEDLE?!
GET AWAY FROM ME!

WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU HERE
SURE
I'M GOING HOME REAL QUICK
43
PLEASE ASK YOUR AUNT TO COME HERE
OKAY
AND TO BRING HER INSURANCE CARD
IT'S JUST.
SOMETHING'S BOTHERING ME ABOUT TATSUKI.
HEY!
MIGG NURSE!
UM, CAN I CHECK ON HIM FOR A SEC?
GO AHEAD.
GOD, WHAT NOW?
YES?
HUH?!
CREE
HE'S THE LAST BED
JUST DON'T WAKE HIM UP.


DON'T... DON'T TOUCH ME.
STOP IT!
I DON'T...
STOP!

Secrets!
CHECK IT OUT!
!!!
500 yen.
HE IS?! ZOUNDS!
TATSUKI'S BUYING FLOWERS!
OH, PLEASE IT CAN'T BE
IT'S A GIRL!
CAN IT?
RIP
CBR
Lame joke

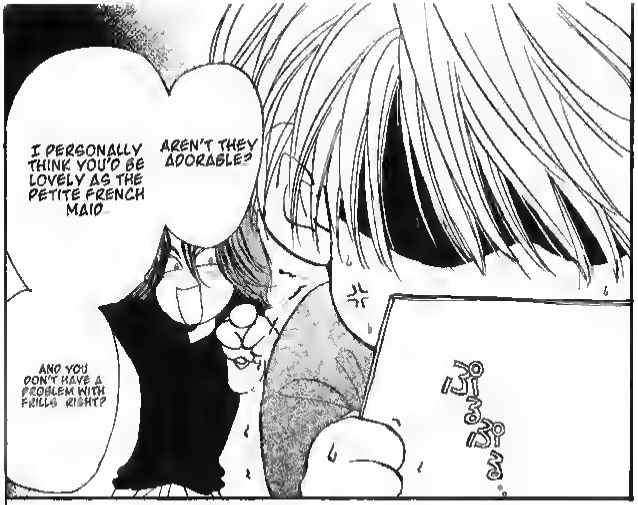

This corner is so damn silly
The author... however must admit that she enjoys it
...and would be pleased if the readers would also enjoy

TATSUKI'S NOT HERE

WHAT?!
ACT 25 * END

AS A SIGNIFICANT SIDE NOTE, THE AUTHOR IS FRIED FROM THE SUMMER HEAT AND OUR WORK-INTENSIVE FINALE
ASSISTANT CHIBA GREETINGS
I'M YOUR HOST, MISS YOSHINO
HELLO EVERYONE WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL GIFT CORNER!
THIS WEEK'S PRESENTER!
AT ANY RATE, IT'S LOVELY TO SEE YOU ALL HERE! THE GIFT CORNER WAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE WARM AND FUZZIES, SINCE IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT TRUE FEELINGS CAN BE EXPRESSED TO FRIENDS THROUGH GIFT-GIVING
YOU'RE ALL ABOUT THE FASHION, RIGHT?
YUUYO
ME?
HEY! I'M YUUTO URUSHIYAMA FROM SETAGAYA WARD, TOKYO
THAT DOES SOUND COOL THANK YOU!
rattle
I GOT YOU A SIMULATOR THING THAT LETS YOU TRY ON DIFFERENT OUTFITS IT LOOKED PRETTY COOL
KNOCK YOURSELF OUT
ER... MY FRIEND KOTAROU HEH HEH.
AND WHO IS YOUR GIFT FOR?

Udou's Past
As that's the case
ME TOO
Udou is a graduate of Konan high school
he can see Udou's high school years
if Tatsuki focuses
WHAT?!
GEH
IT'S JUST SOME KINDA BARF NOISE!
WE NEED WORDS, TATSUKI!
WHAT'D YOU SEE? "GEH" ISN'T A WORD!
Triumphant Dunk
OOHIRA'S GOT HIS EYES ON THE PRIZE!
THERE HE GOES!
ZOOM GHAKALAKA!
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE, FOLKS!
WHAT'S THIS NOW?
OOHIRA LOOKS DISSATISFIED
Pride wins out.
PUT ME DOWN
HM?
DONE ALREADY?


I PERSONALLY THINK YOU'D BE LOVELY AS THE PETITE FRENCH MAID
AREN'T THEY ADORABLE?
AND YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH FRILLS RIGHT?
ぷるぷる

It's a stupid party
I'M LEAVING YOUR CORPSE FOR THE DOGS!

THANKS FOR READING! COME BACK SOON!
'TIL NEXT. WAIT FOR IT—
TAKE CARE
AND— WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO BEFORE THE POLICE COME
FRIENDSHIP IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL THING

Kotarou's Dress-Up Doll

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I'LL BE WATCHING...
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!!